

## CLAIMS

1. Method of sterilizing a plastic surface by hydrogen peroxide in gaseous phase being supplied to the  
5 previously heated plastic surface, c h a r a c t e r -  
i z e d in that the entire sterilization procedure is performed with the hydrogen peroxide in gaseous phase.

2. Method as claimed in claim 1, c h a r a c -  
t e r i z e d in that the plastic surface is heated to a  
10 temperature which is higher than the dew point for the hydrogen peroxide in gaseous phase.

3. Method as claimed in claim 1, c h a r a c -  
t e r i z e d in that the plastic surface comprises a polyester.

15 4. Method as claimed in claim 3, c h a r a c -  
t e r i z e d in that the plastic surface comprises polyethylene terephtalate.

## AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 11 March 1998 (11.03.98);  
original claims 1-4 replaced by new claims 1-5 (1 page)]

1. Method of sterilizing a plastic surface by  
hydrogen peroxide in gaseous phase being supplied to the  
5 previously heated plastic surface, c h a r a c t e r -  
i z e d in that the entire sterilization procedure is  
performed with the hydrogen peroxide in gaseous phase and  
that the plastic surface is heated to a temperature which  
is higher than the dew point for the hydrogen peroxide in  
10 gaseous phase.

2. Method as claimed in claim 1, c h a r a c -  
t e r i z e d in that the plastic surface comprises a  
polyester.  
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3. Method as claimed in claim 1, c h a r a c -  
t e r i z e d in that the plastic surface comprises  
polyethylene terephthalate.

20 4. Method as claimed in claim 1 of sterilizing a  
package material for a container, c h a r a c t e r -  
i z e d in that the package material having a plastic  
surface is sterilized before the container has obtained its  
final form.

25 5. Method as claimed in claim 4, c h a r a c -  
t e r i z e d in that the package material having a  
plastic surface is sterilized continuously.

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